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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF AUGUST 1957

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

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A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. The most significant accomplishment during the month of August has been the steady progress on geographic reports, maps, photo intelligence reports and map library activities, without undue interruption or delay because of vacation schedules. The Chief/G spent a good part of his time during the early part of the month re-briefing himself on the many varied activities of the components of the Area, after being away for approximately six months.

2. The Cartography Division completed 97 maps and charts, 88 for CIA and 9 for the Department of State. Requests were accepted for 86 maps and charts, 74 for CIA and 12 for the Department of State. Of particular note among the maps completed were two maps of Europe and the Arctic done on a crash basis for Mr. Stassen at the London Disarmament Conference, and a map for the latest Geographic Intelligence Memorandum dealing with the Algerian oil situation. The Special Support Branch completed 45 new maps and charts and accepted requests for 47; in addition, 8 revisions and 4 reruns were requested and completed.

3. The Map Library Division received 3,013 maps and 1,051 related publications from foreign sources. Of these, 30% were retained in CIA, 40% sent to AMS, 23% to the Library of Congress, and 3% to the Department of the Interior. The Reference Branch experienced their busiest August on record, disseminating 25,608 maps in answer to 1,356 requests. Outgoing communications totalled a new record high of 283, of which 216 related to foreign procurement and 67 to domestic correspondence.

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4. The Photo Intelligence Division completed five Photographic Intelligence Memoranda [PIM(L)-10, An Analysis of Ground Photographs Taken in the Vicinity of Angarsk, USSR; PIM(L)-13, _____; PIM(L)-14, Razan Airframe Plant No. 22; PIM(L)-15, _____; and _____]. In addition, support was provided on a DD/P training operation and many substantive and technical consultations were held.

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5. The Geography Division completed seven Geographic Intelligence Reports [BA-1); GR-111, _____; GR-147.1, _____]; and _____].

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GR-160, Transborder Routes from the Indian Subcontinent to Sinkiang and Tibet; one Geographic Intelligence Memorandum (GM-4, Oil and Partition in Algeria); two NIS sections (NIS 41AM, Chapter IX, on North Korea and NIS 39B, Section 19, Chapter I on Nationalist China); three memoranda in the G/I and G/E series; and one support job in the G/S series.

6. Representatives of the Geographic Area and the AD/RR met with Drs. Percy and Hodgson of the Department of State in order to clarify and define future relations between the Office of the Geographer and the components of the Geographic Area. The results have been set forth in a Memorandum for the Record dated 19 August 1957.

7. At a conference held between representatives of Management currently engaged in a survey of the Map Library Division and representatives of the Geographic Area, it was agreed that it would be highly desirable to transfer the information control and intelligence document reading function from the Office of the Chief/G to St/I, and to move the other functions -- which are essentially D/GI business -- into that Division. This transfer of responsibility would involve the moving of one person from the Geographic Area to St/I and the remainder of the staff to Map Library Division. The change is to be accomplished as soon as the necessary staff work is completed by St/A and approved by appropriate offices.

8. A meeting on the amount and kind of intelligence work to be done on Africa by the Geographic Area was held during the month and resulted in a better understanding of the magnitude of the job, the nature of the intelligence surveillance activity which would be required for the area, and the unacceptability of external research as a means of meeting geographic intelligence responsibilities. The AD/RR has been made aware of the discussions and conclusions of the meeting through a Memorandum for the Record dated 27 August 1957.

9. The program and various activities of the Staff on Soviet Mapping Intelligence were reviewed during the month and the Chief of the Staff was advised to continue those activities which are of highest priority and directly related to the understood intelligence responsibilities of his staff activity.

10. The Chief/G participated with the Chief, Map Library Division, in representing CIA's interest in an ICA-sponsored aerial photography program in Afghanistan. This representation was made to [REDACTED], who [REDACTED] in that part of the world. [REDACTED] spent many more hours with other [REDACTED] State Department, and the Departments of the Army and Air Force in various negotiations leading to the establishment of this photographic contract program.

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25X1A9a 11. In order to meet the specialized training needs of selected individuals in the Geography Division, [REDACTED] has been contacted with a view to developing a training program emphasizing the possible relationship of geographers to covert operations of every sort. Our understanding of the planning and character of covert operations and the criteria used in determining feasibility of operations will be greatly facilitated by this tailor-made training exercise.

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12. At the invitation of the Department of State, [REDACTED] Geography Division participated in a conference to determine the U.S. position on, and to formulate a reply to, a British proposal to establish a condominium over Antarctica that eventually would include the U.S.S.R. In addition, [REDACTED] attended several OCB meetings on Antarctica. The Progress Report being prepared by the Working Group lays down plans for Antarctic operations beyond the end of the IGY in 1959. The program involving the continuation of our current bases is in danger of being severely cut because of the current economy drive in the Defense Department.

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13. Personnel in the Photo Intelligence Division are currently developing new working arrangements for the handling of [REDACTED] aerial photography. The Navy's processing of the photography and supplying of copies to CIA is being discontinued in view of Navy reliance on the PI group [REDACTED] to handle departmental responsibility. Unfortunately, CIA appears not to be in a position to be able to rely upon the PI capability [REDACTED] but continues to have a need for negatives and positives of this photography in Washington in order to fulfill its intelligence surveillance responsibilities for OCI and the Watch Committee.

14. The first Geographic Photo Interpretation Course, intended primarily for geographers and others who have completed the Division's Industrial PI Course, began on 27 August 1957. From all reports, it is going to add materially to the capabilities of those individuals needing this additional research tool.

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15. [REDACTED] Office, spent four days in Washington for consultation and review of the effectiveness of [REDACTED] program [REDACTED]

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16. [REDACTED] returned on 30 August from an area familiarization trip in Europe. [REDACTED] Geography Division, returned on 12 August from a six-weeks' course on Arctic studies at McGill University in Canada. [REDACTED] departed on 13 August to participate in the Regional Conference

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of the International Geographical Union in Tokyo. [REDACTED] is presently in the Glendale Hospital in California, having returned from Japan after suffering a recurrence of vertebra trouble.

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